

and, crossing its former course nearly at right angles, proceeds along the upper part of the side, getting lower as it approaches beneath the dorsal, to terminate at the caudal. There are also two short transverse lines; one across the snout, connecting the loops; another across the nape, connecting the two main lines after they have assumed the usual direction.

COLOUR.—“Beneath snow white. Above dark brownish-black, this colour forming a series of broad oval rings, one within another; the outer and largest ring includes nearly the entire surface of the back and sides. The upper surface is, in addition, marked with round spots of a darker shade. Pectoral and dorsal fins yellowish brown. Iris, inner edge clouded with orange; pupil dark green-blue.”—D.—In its present state, there is no indication of the rings noticed above. The spots, which are small, and cover nearly the whole head, back, and sides, appear also sparingly on the basal half of the caudal, but not on any of the other fins.

Habitat, Galapagos Archipelago.

This species was taken by Mr. Darwin at Chatham Island, in the Galapagos Archipelago. He observes in his notes that it makes a loud grating noise. It is remarkable for the great tortuosity of the lateral line. The form of the nostrils is also rather peculiar.

4. TETRODON ANGUSTICEPS. Jen.

PLATE XXVIII.

T. supra obscure viridis: capite oblongo, subcompresso, spatio interoculari multum contracto: corpore infra ventricosum, ubique levissimo, duobus, in summo dorso, cirris cutaneis parvis adornato: maxillis subæqualibus: naribus tubulosis, indivisis, aperturis duabus lateralibus: lineâ laterali in capite tortuosissimâ: pinnâ dorsali omnino ante pinnam analem; caudali æquali.

D. 8; A. 7; C. 9; P. 15.

LONG. unc. 9. lin. 3.

FORM.—Rather more elongated than the last species; especially in regard to the head, which is also more compressed upwards, reducing the space between the eyes to a narrow channel, much hollowed out, and not exceeding one diameter of the eye. Body inflatable, every where quite smooth. Jaws nearly equal, the upper one perhaps a very little in advance. Nostrils tubular, with two lateral apertures, somewhat similar to those of the last species, but more elevated. Lateral line similar, taking the same windings on the head. A little behind the transverse line on the nape, and nearly above the attachment of the pectoral, are two small skinny appendages: there is also a very minute one on each side of the tail, but none elsewhere. Dorsal wholly before the anal. Caudal square.

COLOUR.—“Above dull green: base of the pectorals and dorsal black; a white patch beneath the pectorals.”—D.—The colours must have very much altered from the action of the spirit, as it now appears of a nearly uniform reddish brown, only paler beneath.

Habitat, Galapagos Archipelago.

Another apparently undescribed species of this genus, taken by Mr. Darwin at the same place as the last. He observes in his notes that it is inflatable.

FAMILY.—BALISTIDÆ.

1. BALISTES VETULA. Bl.

Balistes Vetula, Bloch, Ichth. tab. 150.

—Duperrey, (Voyage) Zoologie, p. 114, pl. 9. fig. 2.

FORM.—Body deep, subrhombic, very much compressed; the greatest depth equalling half the entire length. Tail unarmed. Three or four larger scales than the others behind the branchial orifice. Pelvic bone projecting, prickly, connected with which is a fin consisting of about nine pairs of short rays. Above this fin, and parallel to its base, are two or three rows of short spines, but not much developed. First dorsal of three spines, commencing above the pectoral; first spine very strong and rough, the third not much smaller than the second. Second dorsal, and anal, which answer to each other, nearly even throughout, the anterior rays not being prolonged beyond the others. The caudal is injured, and its exact form cannot be determined. No lateral line.

D. 3—30; A. 27; C. 12; P. 14.

Length 1 inc. 10 lin.

COLOUR.—(*In spirits.*) Yellowish grey, becoming paler beneath. Three or four dark transverse streaks across the head from eye to eye: beneath the eye one or two indistinct streaks, passing off towards the branchial orifice: also two very distinct longer ones commencing on the upper part of the snout before the eyes, and passing obliquely across the cheeks towards the roots of the pectorals, parallel to those last mentioned. Besides the above, there are several obliquely transverse interrupted lines on the sides of the body: in one specimen, these lines are not well defined; in another, they are distinct, but so much interrupted as to have the appearance of spots arranged in a linear series. Two or three transverse lines encircling the tail; and some remains of longitudinal stripes on the second dorsal and anal fins.

The above description is that of two very small specimens of a species of *Balistes* taken by Mr. Darwin in Lat. 14° 20' South, Long. 38° 8' West, about sixty-five miles from land. I have very little doubt of their being the young of the *B. Vetula* of Bloch. The only respects in which they appear to differ from that species are the oblique lines on the back being carried completely across the sides in the form of lines of spots, and the anterior portions of the second dorsal and anal fins not being prolonged in a point; but both these differences may be the effect of immaturity.

2. BALISTES ACULEATUS. Bl.

Balistes aculeatus, Bloch, Ichth. tab. 149.

—Benn. in Zool. of Beechey's Voy. p. 69. pl. 22. f. 2.

FORM.—Body deep, subrhombic. Tail armed with three rows of prickles, eleven in the uppermost row, about nine or ten in the middle one, and five or six in the lowermost. A few larger scales than the others behind the branchial orifice. Pelvic bone very rough and prickly, the